

J A RANCH HEADQUARTERS, POST OFFICE
Paloduro
Armstrong County
Texas

HABS TX-3530-C
TX-3530-C

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

J A RANCH HEADQUARTERS, POST OFFICE

HABS No. TX 3530-C

The JA Ranch Headquarters consists of numerous buildings erected over an extended period of time and includes both historically and architecturally significant buildings as well as more recent auxiliary structures having little historical or architectural value. Exhibiting historical and architectural importance are the Main House, Post Office, Bunk House, and Corrals. This report focuses on the Main House. For more information on the other structures see:

HABS TX-3530 – J A Ranch Headquarters

HABS TX-3530-A – J A Ranch Headquarters, Main House

HABS TX-3530-B – J A Ranch, Bunk House/Mess Hall

HABS TX-3530-D – J A Ranch, Corrals

POST OFFICE

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: Built by 1882, the JA Ranch headquarters office and post office served as the ranch office and mail center for Palo Duro, Texas, and represents a good example of architecture that complements other existing structures on the site.
2. Condition of Fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: The rectangular, five-bay structure is one story with an attic that is approximately twenty-nine feet three inches by seventeen feet. A rectangular vault is thirteen feet three inches by twelve feet and abuts the main structure on the north façade.
2. Foundations: Foundation consists of two materials, concrete and stone rubble. The main structure rests on a concrete foundation while the wraparound porch on the south and east is on stone rubble.
3. Walls: The main structure's exterior walls are ashlar stone in a random pattern. The veneer ashlar stones are angular and rough and are composed of sandstone of light brown and rust in color. The vault on the north façade is an unpainted concrete structure.
4. Structural System, Framing: The structural system is composed of wood frame construction between the exterior ashlar stones and interior wall panels of sheet board.

5. Porches, Stoops: A concrete porch extends the length of the south and east façades, terminating on the east side at the vault. Six chamfer columns support the pent roof along the south façade, and four chamfer columns support the pent roof along the east façade. Four concrete steps with a pipe rail are at the southeast corner of the porch.
6. Chimneys: One brick chimney with a cement cap rises at the ridge line off-center toward the west gable end.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and Doors: The only door is located on the south façade toward the southeast corner. It is a double-raised paneled door with a wooden sill and threshold and wooden surrounds. Attached to the door is a replica of the JA brand.
 - b. Windows and Shutters: Four windows with wooden sills and surrounds are located on the south façade. Both east and west facades have one window each with the east window being a metal window. A boarded-up window is on the north façade.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, Covering: The main structure has a gable roof with a pent roof over the porch covered with wood shingles. The vault has a gable roof of metal panels.
 - b. Cornice, Eaves: Wood

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans:
 - a. Basement: None
 - b. First Floor: The first floor is divided into three rooms – office, mail room, and storage – in the original structure. The vault is located in the addition at the northeast corner.
 - c. Second Floor: None
 - d. Attic: The attic is accessible by means of a ceiling access panel. The attic is unfinished with exposed wood rafters.
2. Stairways: None
3. Flooring: Stained wood plank.
4. Openings:

- a. Doorways and Doors: Doors are painted wood with raised panels
 - b. Windows: Windows are wood with wood sills, except the east window is painted metal with wood sill. All windows have wood surrounds.
5. Decorative Features: None.
6. Architectural Furniture: None
7. Hardware: No historically significant hardware exists.
8. Mechanical Systems:
- a. Heating: One wood-burning stove originally provided heat. No artificial heat is now available.
 - b. Plumbing: None
 - c. Electric: Electricity served the Post Office beginning with the 1922 installation and operation of an electric plant on ranch property.
- D. Site:
- 1. Historic Landscape Design: None
 - 2. Outbuildings: None.